

those people who are Masters degree people. Now as you know there isn't room in the current budget to address this problem unless you have the will to pass the necessary revenue measures to accomplish this. This is not an insignificant amount of money, but I raise to make this point so that you are aware of the kinds of competition that we're facing out there and the kinds of difficulties that all of our institutions of higher education face. I thought it was particularly interesting this morning when the article was circulated regarding US West and the observation made of the importance of research and technology to the advancement of those industries and I would suggest to you that this is as important a component of economic development as anything we do in the state. I urge your adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Scofield amendment to the Landis amendment to LB 780, I have several lights on. Let me go through the list. Senator Rod Johnson, on the Scofield amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would defer my privilege of speaking to Senator Landis.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson yields his time to Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I accept the Scofield amendment, absolutely. I did not mean by singling out UN-L to say that this phenomenon was isolated only to the Lincoln campus. It is, I would argue, most graphic on the Lincoln campus but that's actually...that's actually not the point. The point here is, what have we done for higher education in the course of the last ten years? And I think we stand indicted by the record, not of good faith, we've acted in good faith, not of wise and fair prioritization by the Appropriations Committee, I think they have done their job and they have done it as fairly and reasonably as they can. I'll tell you where the indictment is in my estimation. In my estimation we have not provided a sufficient revenue base to support these important governmental functions to the level that they should be. We have allowed our revenue base to erode. We have allowed ourselves to be forced into making this kind of trend line for the last 10 years and we don't have the resources or we have denied ourselves the resources or we have denied ourselves the political courage to give ourselves the resources to do anything other than what has happened. The Appropriations